

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 365 764

UD 029 665

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TITLE Two Americas: Racial Differences in Child Poverty in the U.S. A Linear Trend Analysis to the Year 2010. Research in Progress Working Paper.
INSTITUTION Tufts Univ., Medford, MA. Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy.
REPORT NO CHPNP-WP-CPP-101593
PUB DATE Oct 93
NOTE 32p.
AVAILABLE FROM Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy, Tufts University, School of Nutrition, 11 Curtis Avenue, Medford, MA 02155 (\$6, payable to "Trustees of Tufts College").
PUB TYPE Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)
EDRS PRICE MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Academic Ability; *Black Youth; Childhood Needs; *Children; Elementary Secondary Education; Futures (of Society); *Hispanic Americans; Low Income Groups; Nutrition; *Poverty; *Racial Differences; Social Problems; Trend Analysis; United States History; *Whites
IDENTIFIERS *Linear Trends; Projection Research; United States

ABSTRACT

This analysis is the third in the Center's series on child poverty in America. The first part of this study is a historical view of trends in child poverty by race and Hispanic origin for children in families below the age of 18 years. The second part presents projections of child poverty rates and levels for the three largest racial groups to the year 2010, based on Census Bureau poverty data. Increasing numbers of corporate leaders are recognizing the critical importance of healthy, well-nourished, and well-educated children for the viability of the work force. There is growing concern over recent findings on the relationships of poverty-related conditions such as undernutrition and social deprivation to cognitive deficits and academic failure. It is also recognized that without healthy and productive families, children in poverty experience diminished opportunities through cognitive impairment, inadequate education, lack of basic skills, reduced job performance, and increased morbidity and mortality. Projections suggest that if current trends continue child poverty will increase dramatically for White, Black, and Hispanic American children. By the end of the first decade of the twenty-first century, half of all Black children and more than half of all Hispanic American children will be impoverished. Three tables and six figures present information about poverty trends. (Contains 25 references.) (SLD)

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Two Americas

Racial Differences in Child Poverty in the U.S.

A Linear Trend Analysis to the Year 2010

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Two Americas

Racial Differences in Child Poverty in the U.S.

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John T. Cook
J. Larry Brown

Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy

October 1993
Research in Progress Working Paper
(CHPNP-WP No. CPP-101593)

About the Center

The Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy was established at Tufts University in 1990. Its purpose is to promote public policy choices which reduce hunger and poverty, and enhance the development and productive capacities of American families and children. The Center carries out policy research and analyses, and works with governmental leaders and the media, to promote greater understanding of policy alternatives for the nation.

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FOREWORD

This analysis is the third in the Center's series on child poverty in America. The "Two Americas" series is designed to provide analyses of various child poverty trends, and social and economic policy choices available to policymakers to help reduce poverty among the nation's children.

In an earlier report titled "Two Americas: Alternative Futures for Child Poverty in the U.S." national and state projections of child poverty are presented under two possible futures. These futures are based on two distinct trends in child poverty appearing over the past three decades. During the 1960s the number of American children in poverty was reduced by 45 percent. Over the period from 1970 to 1991, on the other hand, the number of American children in poverty increased by over 37 percent. These trends reflect different combinations of economic growth and social policy which have existed during the past three decades.

Description of The Analysis

This study has two parts. The first is a **historical view of trends in child poverty by race and Hispanic origin** for children in families below the age of eighteen years. Census Bureau data on child poverty over the period 1959 to 1992 are presented. These data show a marked increase in child poverty since the early 1970s.

In the second part of this study we present **projections of the child poverty rates and levels for the three largest racial/ethnic groups to the year 2010**. Projections are based on Census Bureau poverty data for children in families over the period 1973-1992¹. These projections show the variation likely to occur in child poverty among these groups over the next two decades, if trends of the last two decades continue.

By viewing the future of child poverty for each major ethnic group, it is possible to see which groups are most likely to experience the greatest increases in child poverty, and where social policies might be focused. It is also possible to see how the ethnic mix of children in poverty is likely to change as we enter the twenty-first century.

Concern for the welfare of America's children is undergoing renewed interest among a variety of sectors in the nation. Increasing numbers of corporate leaders recognize the critical importance of healthy, well-nourished and well-educated children for the viability

¹ The analyses described in this report cover related children living in families. Related children in families comprise approximately 98 percent of all children in the U.S., and about 95 percent of all children in poverty.

of America's work force and its overall economic health and competitiveness.

There is growing concern over recent research findings on the relationships of poverty-related conditions such as undernutrition and social deprivation to cognitive deficits and academic failure. These outcomes will impose tremendous costs on the nation as more children remain in poverty. Changes in the labor markets of the twenty-first century, requiring ever higher skill levels and academic credentials, have led to serious questions about the ability of American workers to compete for jobs.

Definitions and Data Sources for Child Poverty Rates

The definition of poverty used in this study is the same as that used by the federal government (Bureau of the Census). The racial and ethnic origin definitions used here are also those used by the federal government.

This analysis utilizes 1992 national child poverty data, the most recently available from the Census Bureau. This data, from the Census Bureau's March Current Population Survey, can be found in existing Census Bureau publications in the P-60 Series. Most of the data are listed in tables contained in Series P-60, No. 185, "Poverty in the United States: 1992" and P-60, No. 181, "Poverty in the United States: 1991."

The analyses of Hispanic child poverty contained in this report are based on data beginning in 1973, the first year for which the Census Bureau reported child poverty data for persons of Hispanic origin. The most recent year for which national child poverty data are available from the Census Bureau is 1992.

There are regularly recurring complaints from various quarters (both right and left) that the current federal poverty definition and thresholds are inadequate measures of "actual" economic deprivation among the American population². In spite of these criticisms, some of which may be valid, Census Bureau poverty data based on the federal definitions of income and poverty are the most readily available, most regularly updated, and are most widely used and accepted as the best available. For these reasons we rely on the Census Bureau estimates in this study.

² For an excellent review of the issues and problems associated with current poverty definitions and thresholds see Ruggles, P., (1990), Drawing the Line: Alternative Poverty Measures and Their Implications for Public Policy, The Urban Institute Press. Also see U.S. Bureau of the Census, (1992), Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 182-RD, Measuring the Effects of Benefits and Taxes on Income and Poverty: 1979 to 1991, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL CHILD POVERTY TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

Poverty is a problem of growing proportions which impacted nearly 14 million American children in 1992. Policy decisions made by the current Congress and Administration will help determine whether child poverty is dramatically reduced over coming years, or will reach heights unparalleled in modern history.

Child poverty has not always been so severe. During the decade of the 1960s, the number of poor American children in families actually decreased by 44.8 percent. The number of related children in poverty went from 17.2 million in 1959 to 9.5 million in 1969.

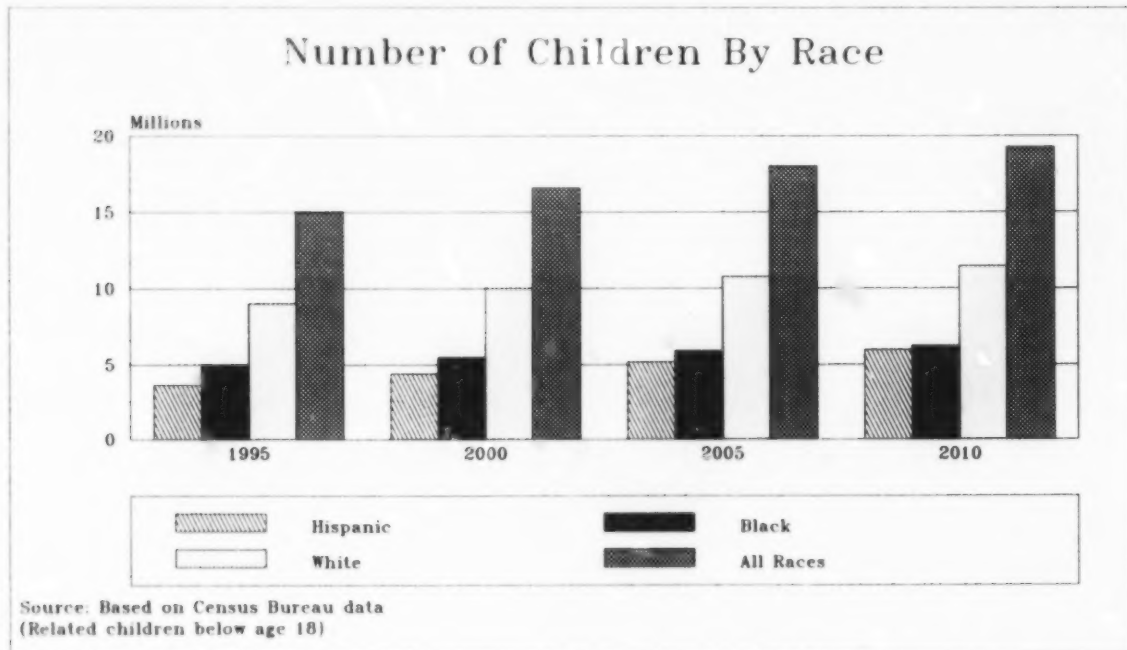
During the period from 1973 to 1992 however, the number of American children living in poverty increased by 46.8 percent. Over 4.4 million more children lived in impoverished families in 1992 than in 1973. Moreover, this trend continued during the period of economic sustained growth in the 1980s.

- * **From 1973 to 1992, the number of White children in poverty increased by 52.6 percent, an additional 2.87 million.**
- * **The number of Hispanic children in poverty increased by 116.0 percent from 1973 to 1992, an additional 1.58 million.**
- * **During the same period the number of Black children in poverty increased by 26.9 percent, an additional 1.03 million.**

If child poverty trends continue over the next twenty years as they did over the period 1973-1992, America may be headed for a problem of unusual dimensions:

- * **Growth in child poverty among White children will be greater than for Black children over the next two decades.**
- * **An additional 1.65 million White children will fall into poverty by the turn of the century.**
- * **The number of Hispanic children in poverty will more than double by the year 2010.**
- * **By the year 2010 over half of all Black children will be living in poverty.**
- * **By the end of the first decade of the new century half of all Black and Hispanic children will be poor.**

Projected U.S. Child Poverty



Today, millions of American children live in a distinctly different country, a land of poverty. Analysis of trends in child poverty by race and Hispanic origin over the past three decades shows that the significant reductions in child poverty accomplished during the 1960s were to a large degree reversed during the 1980s.

If the trends of the period from 1973 to 1992 continue into the next two decades, child poverty will continue to increase dramatically among White, Black and Hispanic children (see figure above). Moreover, under these conditions half of all Black children and more than half of all Hispanic children will be impoverished by the end of the first decade of the twenty-first century (see Figure 5, p.19). Economic and policy decisions made during the next several years may determine the future reality for American children of all races.

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL CHILD POVERTY TRENDS

Child Poverty Threatens the Well-being of Children and the Nation

Poverty may be the single most important factor in producing outcomes we fear most for our young. The high correlation of poverty with poor health, drugs, and school failure, for example, suggests that attempts to improve the condition of childhood in America must start with efforts to reduce poverty. Probably more than any other factor, poverty limits the capacity of families, and begins harming the young before they are born. Without productive and healthy families, children experience significantly diminished opportunity through cognitive impairment, inadequate education, lack of basic skills, reduced job performance and increased morbidity and mortality.

For more than twenty years child poverty in America has been increasing, presenting definite peril to our children and potential peril to the moral and economic strength of our country. Concern about the upward trend in child poverty is being expressed by a growing number of leaders from varying sectors of the economy³. With increasing frequency, business and corporate leaders express concern for the viability of America's future workforce as a factor threatening our economic competitiveness⁴.

³ In a 1987 volume produced by the Hudson Institute, Inc. for the U.S. Department of Labor titled "Workforce 2000: Work and Workers for the 21st Century", the urgency of providing "every child who reaches the age of seventeen between now and the year 2000" with the ability to "read sophisticated materials, write clearly, speak articulately, and solve complex problems requiring algebra and statistics" is emphasized as a prerequisite to achieving economic competitiveness and productivity. In a speech delivered November 18, 1992, Hillary Rodham Clinton, past president of Children's Defense Fund, emphasized the importance of American children to the country's social and economic well-being, and noted our failure to "do all we can" for them recently.

⁴ In 1985 and 1987 the Committee for Economic Development (CED), an independent research and educational organization of over two hundred business executives and educators, released lengthy analyses and statements addressing the critical problems faced by American children, and their central role in the future competitiveness of our economy. The concerns expressed by CED also appear in testimony presented to the House Committee on the Budget in March 1991 by executive officers and board chairpersons from five of America's largest corporations (AT&T, BellSouth Corporation, Honeywell, Inc., The Prudential Insurance Company of America and Sky Chefs, Inc.). More recently a group of four corporate leaders (Hasbro, Inc., Stride Rite, Vidal Sassoon, and Sky Chefs, Inc.) met with top House and Senate leaders, and testified at a Budget Committee and House Select Committee on Hunger press conference to urge immediate action to address growing hunger and poverty among American children.

Driving concern that the well-being of our young is a critical factor in determining future social and economic health of the nation is the recognition that American children currently face rapidly escalating problems stemming from poverty. See, for example, recent reports from the National Center for Children in Poverty, the Center for the Study of Social Policy, the Children's Defense Fund, the National Commission on Children, the Center for the Future of Children, and the National Council of La Raza.

While child poverty is linked to government social and economic policy, neither the effects of economic growth nor social policies had a consistent influence on child poverty among all races during the past three decades. Though the overall number of children in poor families was reduced by nearly 45 percent from 1959 to 1969, the number of Black children in poverty fell by just under 27 percent, while the reduction for White children was more than 50 percent.

The racial disparity in reduction of the number of children in poverty during the 1960s was paralleled by similar differences in poverty rate changes for Whites versus Blacks. While the poverty rate for White children living in families declined by 53 percent between 1959 and 1969, the decline in the poverty rate for Black children was only 40 percent. The importance of these differences is even more critical since the poverty rate among Black children was over three times that for White children in 1959.

These distinct patterns of change in child poverty over previous decades reflect a host of economic and social factors leading to income disparities among members of different racial groups. While progress clearly has been made toward ensuring that no Americans are denied basic economic necessities, access to an adequate income has not been achieved, especially among certain racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.

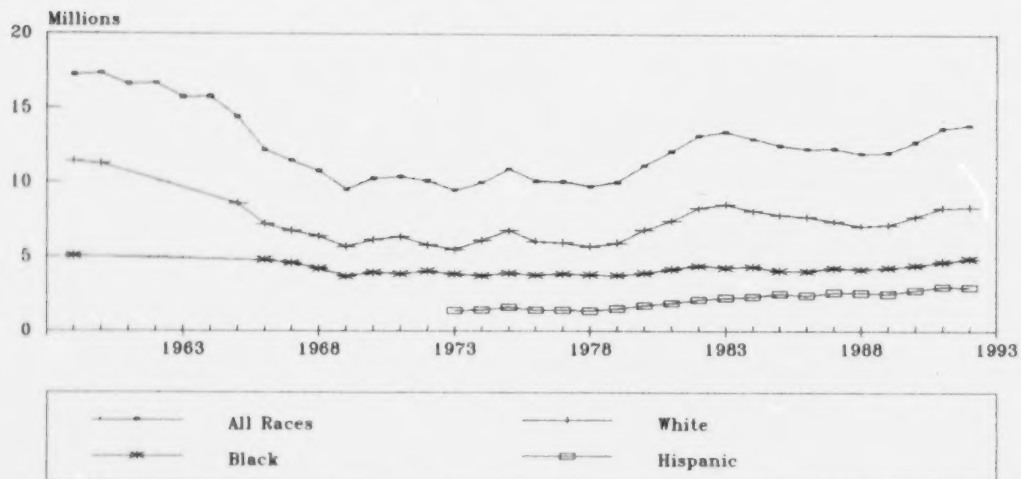
The essential issue, however, is that the vexing and ominous problem of increasing child poverty is one which is linked with and susceptible to government policy. Domestic social and economic policy choices of the next few years provide the nation with a unique opportunity to reverse a twenty-year increase in poverty among America's children of all races. How this is accomplished -- or whether it is -- remains to be seen.

Child Poverty Reflects Economic and Social Policy

According to Census Bureau data, during the 1960s the number of American children in families with incomes below the poverty level was reduced by 45.0 percent, going from 17.2 million in 1959 to 9.5 million in 1969 (see Figure 1 below). The poverty rate for children in families was reduced from 26.9 percent in 1959 to 13.8 percent in 1969 (see Figure 2 below). These dramatic reductions in childhood poverty occurred during a period of strong expansion in the American economy, accompanied by concerted governmental policy initiated to reduce poverty (5, pp. 300-301; 9, Ch. 1). As seen in Figures 1 and 2, however, the reductions in child poverty over this period were not the same for Blacks and Whites.

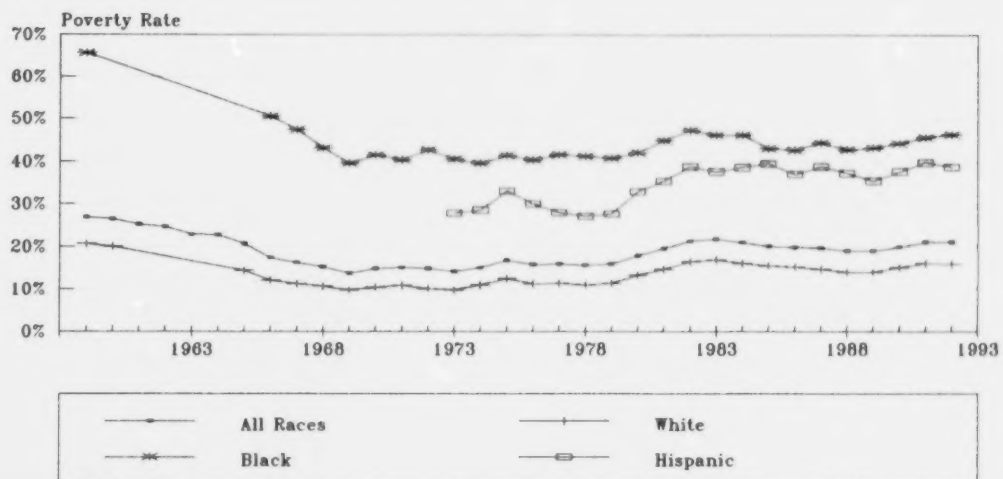
U.S. Child Poverty 1959-1992

Figure 1: Number of Children



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.
(Related children below age 18)

Figure 2: Percent of Children



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census
(Related children below age 18)

The 1960s were characterized by relatively high rates of growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and low rates of unemployment, with the exception of the recession during the first two years of the decade. Even during the 1960-61 recession, the overall unemployment rate did not exceed 6.5 percent, and was below 5.0 percent throughout the last half of the decade (5, pp. 300-301, 340). Moreover, compared to the following two decades, the rate of inflation was quite low during the 1960s (5, p. 302).

Both the short- and long-term effects of governmental programs in the 1960s are still heavily debated. A Government Accounting Office (GAO) study conducted in 1969 reported "mismanagement, misdirection, and underachievement." It also found significant successes, and recommended continuation of the Office of Economic Opportunity and its administration of war on poverty programs (12, p. 56).

During the 1970s the downward trend in childhood poverty was reversed, with the number of related children in poverty actually increasing by 8.6 percent from 1970 to 1980 (see Figures 1 and 3). At the start of the decade there were 10.2 million children in poverty, reaching 11.1 million by 1980. The overall poverty rate for related children increased during the 1970s from 14.9 percent in 1970 to 17.9 percent in 1980 (See Figure 4).

Performance of the U.S. economy during the 1970s was disappointing. The high rates of GDP growth in the 1960s were not repeated at any time during the 1970s. Overall unemployment rates were also higher during the 1970s than during the previous decade. Moreover, inflation increased at a very rapid pace during the latter half of the 1970s, partially as a result of increases in world petroleum prices.

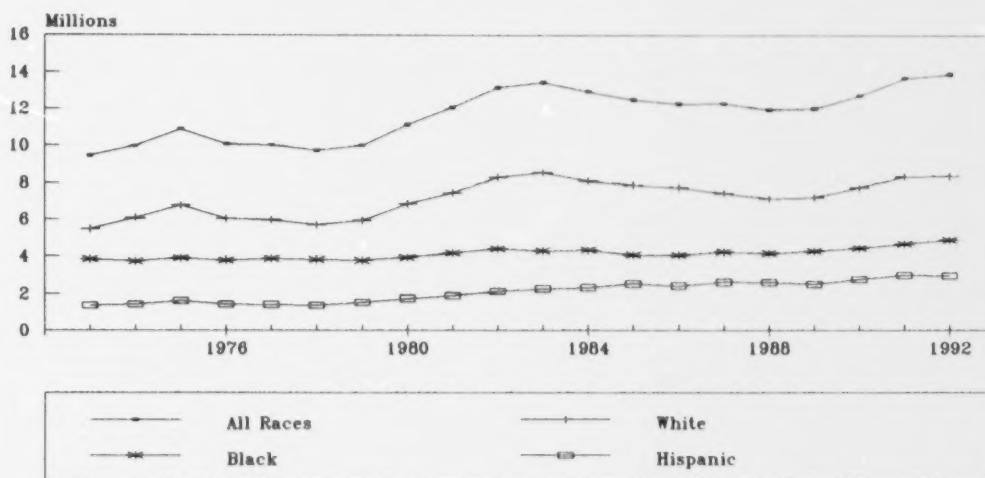
During the next decade (1980-1992), the number of American children in impoverished families increased by another 24.8 percent. The number of poor children went from 11.1 million to 13.9 million, an increase of 2.8 million over the period (see Figure 3). At the end of this period, 21.1 percent of American children lived in poor families (see Figure 4).

Three recessions occurred during the period from 1980 to 1992. However after the recessions of 1980 and 1981-82, there were seven years of economic growth, ending with the recession which began in 1990. A major divergence from past economic trends occurred during this period with unemployment rates remaining unusually high for periods of economic growth (above 6.0 percent). Moreover, inflation continued to rise steadily through most of the period, leading to greater overall inflation during this period than during the 1970s.

At the start of the 1980s, the new Administration was committed to reducing the role of federal government antipoverty measures, and reducing government's size and level of activity generally. Some domestic programs were eliminated during these years, while funding for others was reduced.

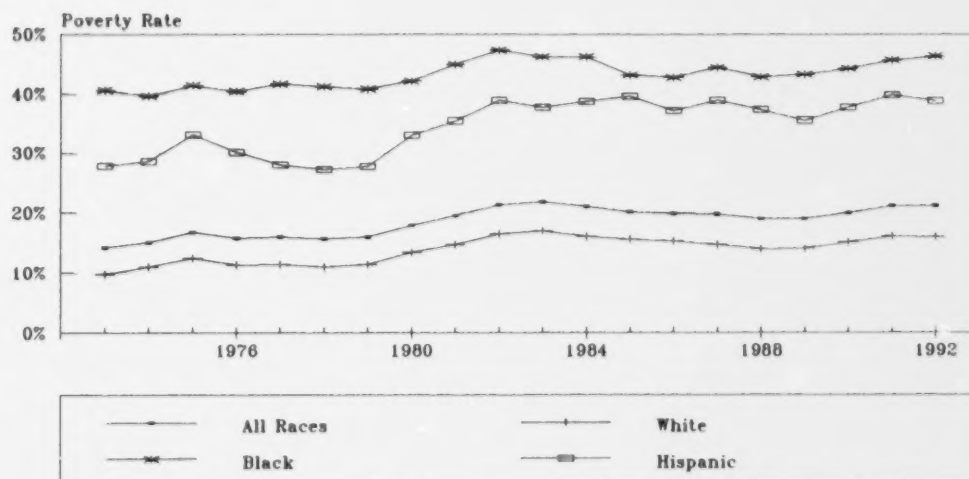
U.S. Child Poverty 1973-1992

Figure 3: Number of Children



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.
(Related children below age 18)

Figure 4: Percent of Children



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census
(Related children below age 18)

Reductions in domestic programs, along with the two recessions early in the 1980s, continued changes in the structure of American families, further decline in real wage levels, and major declines in the real value of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) benefits, led to a surge in the number of children in poverty. From 1980 to 1984 the number of American children in poor families increased by nearly 2 million. By 1983, 13.4 million American children were living in families with incomes below the poverty level, the largest number since 1965 (See Figure 1 and Appendix 1).

During the middle to latter part of the 1980s, growth in the economy and reduction in unemployment, together with renewal of some funding for domestic programs by Congress, led to a reduction of approximately 1 million in the number of children living in poverty. The net change over these years was an overall increase of about 1 million more children in poverty in 1988 than in 1980. From 1988 to 1992, however, a combination of factors led to a further increase of nearly 2 million American children in poverty (See Figure 3).

PROJECTED CHILD POVERTY RATES BY RACE, 1992-2010

Child Poverty Trends By Race and Hispanic Origin During the Base Period

The overall poverty rate for children in American families increased by 46.8 percent over the base period used in this analysis (1973-1992). This sharp increase was unevenly spread among White, Black and Hispanic children.

Over the period from 1973 to 1992 the poverty rate for White children increased by 65 percent, going from 9.7 percent in 1973 to 16.0 percent in 1992. This dramatic increase in the poverty rate for White children resulted in over 2.9 million more children living in impoverished families in 1992 than in 1973.

The poverty rate for Black children in families increased by 14.0 percent from 1973 to 1992, though at 46.3 percent it was still nearly three times the rate for White children at the end of the period. Over a million more Black children were living in poor families at the end of this period than at the beginning.

The Census Bureau began to report poverty data separately for children of Hispanic origin in 1973. The proportion of Hispanic children living in poor families increased by 39.6 percent between 1973 and 1992, going from 27.8 percent to 38.8 percent. The additional 1.58 million Hispanic children living in poverty in 1992 amounted to a 116.0 percent increase from the number in 1973.

The relatively large increase in Hispanic poverty from 1973 to 1992 reflects two underlying trends over the period. First, according to Census Bureau estimates, the total number of Hispanic children in families increased by 54.6 percent from 1973 to 1992. The number of Black children in families increased by only 11.3 percent during this period, while the total number of White children in families actually declined by 7.3 percent. In 1973 Hispanic children comprised 7.4 percent of all related children in the U.S. By 1992 the proportion of all related children in the U.S. population who were of Hispanic origin was 11.6 percent.

A second trend reflected in the increase in Hispanic child poverty over this period is a relatively large increase in the proportion of Hispanic year-round, full-time workers with low annual earnings⁵. According to Census Bureau data, 18.3 percent of all Hispanic year-round, full-time workers had low annual earnings in 1974. That same year 18.1 percent of all Black year-round, full-time workers had low earnings and 11.4 percent of White year-round, full-time workers (21, p. 5).

⁵ The Census Bureau defines low earnings as workers whose annual earnings are less than the poverty level for a four-person family.

By 1990 the number of Hispanic year-round, full-time workers with low earnings had increased to 31.4 percent. By the same time the proportion of Black year-round, full-time workers with low annual earnings had increased to 25.3 percent, while the proportion for Whites increased to 17.1 percent (21, p. 5).

Projected Poverty Rates By Race and Hispanic Origin, 1995-2010

Table 1 contains projected poverty rates for related children by race and Hispanic origin for five year intervals to the year 2010. The Census Bureau poverty rates for 1992 are also shown for comparison (17).

Table 1: Projected Poverty Rates for American Children
In Families By Race and Hispanic Origin
(Base Period for Projections: 1973-1992)

Year	All Races (%)	White (%)	Black (%)	Hispanic (%)
1992	21.1	16.0	46.3	38.8
1995	22.2	17.0	47.2	40.5
2000	24.0	18.7	48.7	43.4
2005	25.8	20.3	50.2	46.3
2010	27.6	22.0	51.7	49.2

Source: Calculated using Census Bureau data.

As seen in Table 1, if child poverty trends of the past twenty years continue over the next two decades, the proportion of White children in families in poverty will increase by 37 percent, reaching a poverty rate of 22 percent in 2010. Over the same period the poverty rates for Black and Hispanic children will increase by 11.7 percent and 26.9 percent respectively. Under these conditions, by the year 2010 over half of all Black children and half of all Hispanic children in families will be in poverty.

PROJECTED CHILD POPULATION BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN, 1992-2010

Table 2 shows the latest Census Bureau projections of the total child population by race and Hispanic origin at five-year intervals to the year 2010 (14, pp. 18-40). The Census Bureau's estimates of the number of children in 1992 are shown for comparison (17).

Table 2: Projected Number of Children In The U.S.
By Race and Hispanic Origin: 1995-2010

Year	All Races (1000s)	White (1000s)	Black (1000s)	Hispanic (1000s)
1992	66,834	53,090	10,599	7,807
1995	68,679	54,184	10,810	9,156
2000	70,692	54,860	11,430	10,379
2005	71,761	54,625	12,023	11,545
2010	72,063	53,836	12,413	12,593

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.
(All persons below 18 years of age.)

As seen in Table 2, the number of children of Hispanic origin is projected by the Census Bureau to increase over the next two decades at a rate greater than either White or Black children. By the year 2010 children of Hispanic origin will outnumber Black children slightly in the population⁶.

According to the Census Bureau projections, the Hispanic child population will increase by 61.3 percent over its 1992 level by the year 2010. In contrast, the number of White and Black children will increase by 1.4 percent and 17.1 percent respectively over the next two decades.

⁶ Note that children of Hispanic origin may be either Black or White.

PROJECTED NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN POVERTY BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN, 1992-2010

Table 3 shows the projected number of children in poverty at five year intervals to the year 2010. The Census Bureau figures for 1992 are shown for comparison (17).

**Table 3: Projected Number of American Children In Poverty
By Race and Hispanic Origin: 1995-2010**

Year	All Races (1000s)	White (1000s)	Black (1000s)	Hispanic (1000s)
1992	13,876	8,333	4,850	2,946
1995	14,931	9,021	4,999	3,611
2000	16,557	9,984	5,430	4,363
2005	18,003	10,779	5,860	5,148
2010	19,268	11,443	6,203	5,935

Source: Calculated using Census Bureau data.
(Related children below 18 years of age.)

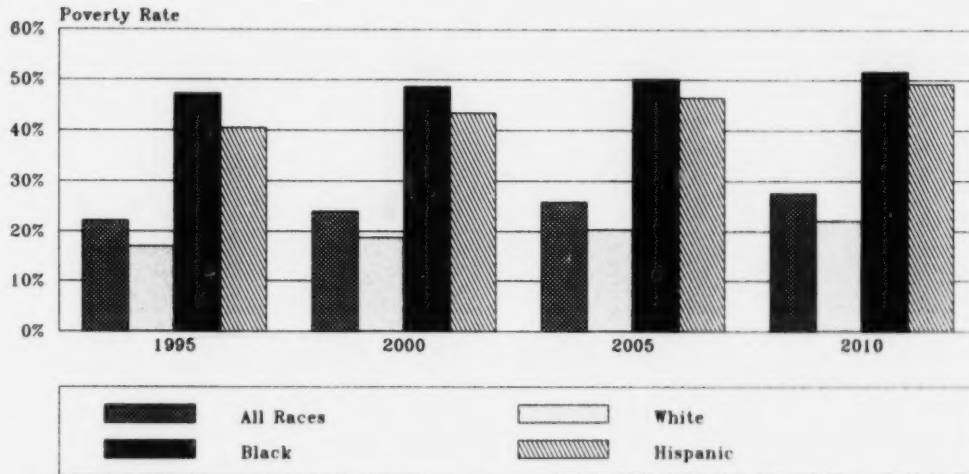
If the trends in child poverty of the past twenty years continue over the next two decades the number of American children living in impoverished families will increase by 39 percent. The number of White children in poor families will increase by over 37 percent, reaching 11.4 million by the year 2010.

Under these conditions the number of Black children in poverty will increase by nearly a third over the next two decades, while the number of Hispanic children in poverty will more than double. Unless the trends in child poverty of the past twenty years are improved significantly, the number of Hispanic children living in poor families will increase by 101 percent over the next two decade.

This analysis shows that poverty among America's children may climb to unprecedented levels over the next two decades. Even more startling, however, is the likelihood that over half of all Black children and half of all Hispanic children in families may be living in poverty by the year 2010.

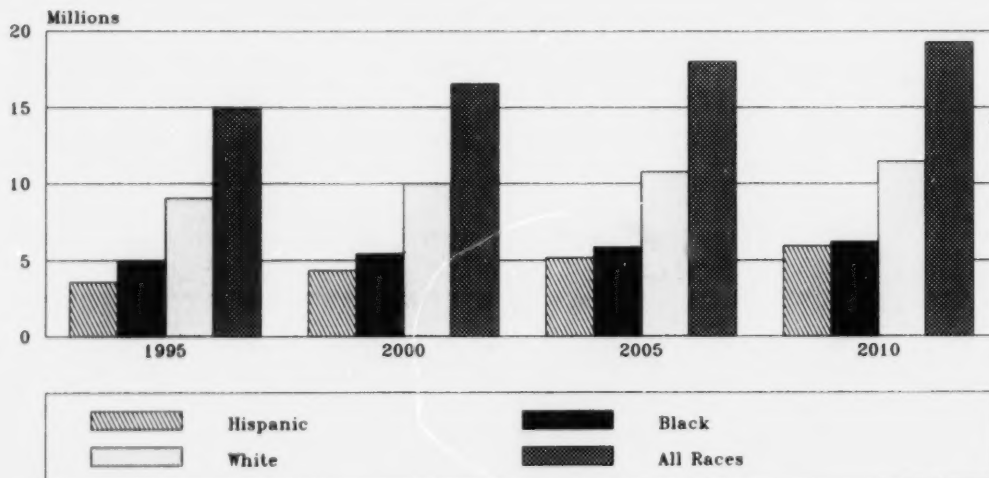
Projected U.S. Child Poverty By Race

Figure 5: Projected Percent of Children



Source: Based on Census Bureau data.
(Related Children below age 18)

Figure 6: Projected Number of Children



Source: Based on Census Bureau data
(Related children below age 18)

SUMMARY AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This analysis indicates that America may be heading into the next century plagued by a problem of devastating proportions. American children are being divided into two countries. In one there are youngsters in households with resources which, though shrinking, are enough to keep them and their families out of poverty. But in the other America is the reality of growing poverty, with all the desperation that accompanies it.

If the nation continues to allow more children to slide into poverty, we may be headed for a crisis in our education system, our labor force, and the economy itself. Increasing costs associated with provision of adequate education opportunities and other assistance for the growing numbers of disadvantaged children in America are likely to overwhelm our educational and social services systems as we enter the twenty-first century. This trend does not bode well for the economy or the social stability of America.

To date provision of special education programs for children disadvantaged by nutritional and social deficits associated with poverty has followed a model aimed at relatively small student subpopulations. If child poverty continues to follow recent trends, in many areas of the U.S. schools will be required to provide special education programs for student bodies in which disadvantaged children comprise a majority of all students.

Dealing with America's child poverty crisis requires social and economic policies which make it possible for families with at least one year-round full-time worker to earn enough to stay out of poverty. Recent expansions and innovations in use of the earned income tax credit (EITC) may go a long way toward meeting this goal. Reform of the minimum wage structure to make it more commensurate with income levels required for minimum economic self-sufficiency, and to prevent wage erosion due to inflation, would also help.

The well-being of children must become part of all policy debate, whether it is about health care, food assistance or welfare reform. Strong and creative leadership is required from our political leaders and policymakers. Issues of cost and efficiency are important, but must not be used to stifle creative responses to this urgent situation. Every additional child falling into poverty multiplies the future costs associated with inaction. We either pay now or pay much more later.

America has an immediate and inescapable child poverty problem for which it must assume responsibility now. Children simply must become a top priority in America's complex mix of competing political interests. The rapid and continued growth in child poverty could eventually sap the strength of the nation itself.

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Appendix 1

Number and Percent of American Children In Poverty Related Children in Families Below Age 18: 1959-1992

Year	All				All			
	Races (1) (1000s)	White (1000s)	Black (1000s)	Hispanic (2) (1000s)	Races (1) (%)	White (%)	Black (%)	Hispanic (2) (%)
1959	17,208	11,386	5,022		26.9%	20.6%	65.6%	
1960	17,288	11,229			26.5%	20.0%		
1961	16,577				25.2%			
1962	16,630				24.7%			
1963	15,691				22.8%			
1964	15,736				22.7%			
1965	14,388	8,595			20.7%	14.4%		
1966	12,146	7,204	4,774		17.4%	12.1%	50.6%	
1967	11,427	6,729	4,558		16.3%	11.3%	47.4%	
1968	10,739	6,373	4,188		15.3%	10.7%	43.1%	
1969	9,501	5,667	3,677		13.8%	9.7%	39.6%	
1970	10,235	6,138	3,922		14.9%	10.5%	41.5%	
1971	10,344	6,341	3,836		15.1%	10.9%	40.4%	
1972	10,082	5,784	4,025		14.9%	10.1%	42.7%	
1973	9,453	5,462	3,822	1,364	14.2%	9.7%	40.6%	27.8%
1974	9,967	6,079	3,713	1,414	15.1%	11.0%	39.6%	28.6%
1975	10,882	6,748	3,884	1,619	16.8%	12.5%	41.4%	33.1%
1976	10,081	6,034	3,758	1,424	15.8%	11.3%	40.4%	30.1%
1977	10,028	5,943	3,850	1,402	16.0%	11.4%	41.6%	28.0%
1978	9,722	5,674	3,781	1,354	15.7%	11.0%	41.2%	27.2%
1979	9,993	5,909	3,745	1,505	16.0%	11.4%	40.8%	27.7%
1980	11,114	6,817	3,906	1,718	17.9%	13.4%	42.1%	33.0%
1981	12,068	7,429	4,170	1,874	19.5%	14.7%	44.9%	35.4%
1982	13,139	8,282	4,388	2,117	21.3%	16.5%	47.3%	38.9%
1983	13,427	8,534	4,273	2,251	21.8%	17.0%	46.2%	37.7%
1984	12,929	8,086	4,320	2,317	21.0%	16.1%	46.2%	38.7%
1985	12,483	7,838	4,057	2,512	20.1%	15.6%	43.1%	39.6%
1986	12,257	7,714	4,037	2,413	19.8%	15.3%	42.7%	37.1%
1987	12,275	7,398	4,234	2,606	19.7%	14.7%	44.4%	38.9%
1988	11,935	7,095	4,148	2,576	19.0%	14.0%	42.8%	37.3%
1989	12,001	7,164	4,257	2,496	19.0%	14.1%	43.2%	35.5%
1990	12,715	7,696	4,412	2,750	19.9%	15.1%	44.2%	37.7%
1991	13,658	8,316	4,637	2,977	21.1%	16.1%	45.6%	39.8%
1992	13,876	8,333	4,850	2,946	21.1%	16.0%	46.3%	38.8%

(1) Includes persons of other races, not shown separately.

(2) Hispanic persons may be of any race.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Current Population Reports," Series P-60, No. 181 and 185.

Appendix 2

Projected U.S. Child Poverty Base Period: 1973–1992

Projected Percent of Children

Year	All Races (%)	White (%)	Black (%)	Hispanic (%)
1992	21.1%	16.0%	46.3%	38.8%
1995	22.2%	17.0%	47.2%	40.5%
2000	24.0%	18.7%	48.7%	43.4%
2005	25.8%	20.3%	50.2%	46.3%
2010	27.6%	22.0%	51.7%	49.2%
% Change 1992–2010	31.0%	37.3%	11.7%	26.9%

Projected Number of Children

Year	All Races (1000s)	White (1000s)	Black (1000s)	Hispanic (1000s)
1992	13,876	8,333	4,850	2,946
1995	14,931	9,021	4,999	3,611
2000	16,557	9,984	5,430	4,363
2005	18,003	10,779	5,860	5,148
2010	19,268	11,443	6,203	5,935
% Change 1992–2010	38.9%	37.3%	27.9%	101.4%

Source: Calculated based on Census Bureau data.

TECHNICAL APPENDIX

Projection Method and Data Sources

The method used in this analysis is based on a linear trend projection of childhood poverty rates. Beginning with a base periods, an average annual absolute increment in the poverty rate is calculated for that period. The projection of the poverty rate to any year is then calculated by multiplying the number of years covered by the projection, by the average absolute increment, and adding that amount to the starting value (in this case, the 1992 rate). The projected childhood poverty rates thus obtained are then applied to the most recent Census Bureau population projections for Black, White and Hispanic related children below age eighteen, to obtain projected numbers of children in poverty in each desired year up to 2010 for the nation as a whole⁷.

The projections thus produced assume that the childhood poverty rates in America will change in the future by average, constant annual amounts from the respective base period. The base period used for the projections is 1973-1992. The base period begins with 1973 because that is the first year for which data are available by Hispanic origin. The base period ends with 1992 because that is the most recent year for which Census Bureau poverty data are available.

The data used in this analysis are from volumes published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and come from the Current Population Survey. All data sources are cited in the references provided below. A summary of the data used is included in Appendix 1.

⁷ The Census Bureau produces population projections by single year age intervals for each year from 1992 to 2005. However, beyond the year 2005 projections are only provided for every fifth year (e.g., 2005, 2010, 2015, etc.).

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We express appreciation to the panel of advisors who have reviewed the preparation of this analysis. The final product, however, is the work of the Center, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the advisors themselves.

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